

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Previously, claims 1-9 were pending. This amendment adds new claims 10-20.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Official Action indicated that claims 2-6 were directed to allowable subject matter.

In reliance thereupon, claim 11 has been introduced which is based on allowable claim 2. Claims 12-13 and 15-16 correspond to original dependent claims.

New claim 10 corresponds to allowable claim 6. New dependent claims 18-20 correspond to original dependent claims.

New dependent claim 10 has been added to more precisely define the action of the retaining means recited in claims 2 and 4. The specific recitations can be found in specification page 3, the last full paragraph.

The abstract has been amended as to form.

The Official Action objected to claim 1 due to an informality. The informality has been remedied.

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected as anticipated by DAVIS, Jr. et al. 6,139,082.

Claims 7 and 9 stand rejected as obvious over DAVIS, JR. et al.

Claims 7-9 are believed patentable at least for deepening from an allowable independent claim.

Further, claim 1 has been amended so as to patentably recite the present invention.

DAVIS Jr. is offered as disclosing **retaining** a housing on flanges of a structural element extending in a direction of elongation, said flanges extending in a longitudinal direction substantially perpendicular to the direction of elongation.

In the invention, the retaining means is for allowing mounting of housings at several different places of the structural member. While not explicitly mentioned, the retaining means of DAVIS Jr. may be released by a load if they are not sturdily fixed. However, DAVIS Jr. does not consider security problems arising from the case of a front impact of a vehicle.

Amended claim 1 includes a definition of the security feature of the releasable retaining means whereby when the housing is subjected to loads higher than the given threshold in the longitudinal direction, the retaining means i) first allow the displacement of the housing relative to the flanges under the action of the loads, and ii) second, *after a slight translation of the housing relative to the flanges*, the release the housing. Thus, the retaining means is releasable in two recited steps.

In an embodiment of the invention, the retaining means comprises studs inserted in bores and guided by rails, such that when the housing is subjected to loads higher than the given

threshold, the studs are released from the bores and are guided along the rails so that the housing tilts downwards by pivoting about the studs, and the studs then move in translation along the rails before exiting therefrom and are completely released.

Neither DAVIS Jr. nor other documents suggest the security feature according to amended and pending claim recitations.

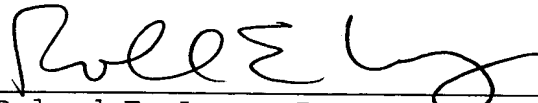
In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the claims as recited by independent amended claim 1 (as well as the claims dependent therefrom) patentably recite the present invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested.

For the reasons discussed above, applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- an amended Abstract of the Disclosure